

Below is an article that utilities could use in their newsletters or as bill stuffers.

Make a Cool Change with ENERGY STAR®: Recycle Your Old Fridge or Freezer

How's that energy hog?

If you have a refrigerator or freezer manufactured before 1993, you have an energy hog, so go on over and say hello.

Better yet, say goodbye!

U.S. households have 44.5 million fridges over 10 years old, 12.7 million of which are second units. Together, these inefficient appliances eat up \$4.9 billion a year in energy costs. **[Name of Utility]** is partnering with ENERGY STAR's *Make a Cool Change* Campaign to encourage you to retire your old fridge or freezer and, when needed, replace it with a new model bearing the ENERGY STAR label. Led by the U.S. Department of Energy, the campaign aims to help our country save energy, save money, and protect the environment.

A refrigerator manufactured before 1993 costs more than double to operate than a new ENERGY STAR qualified model; fridges and freezers from the 1970s cost four times more. Unplug and recycle old units to lower your energy bill.

Even if you bought your fridge or freezer in the mid-1990s, the time may be right to replace it. This is especially true if you have a side-by-side refrigerator, which uses 25% more energy than a typical top-mount unit—or if you could use a smaller model, you're thinking of remodeling, or the unit has been unreliable. Use ENERGY STAR's [refrigerator calculator](#) to find out how much energy and money your old fridge or freezer is costing you. The savings may justify replacing it now.

Think carefully before you decide to replace your second fridge or freezer. Unless you need the extra room for groceries all the time, you're paying big bucks to keep a few drinks cold. If your needs are small, consider a compact model like the ones students use in dorm rooms.

Don't donate or sell your old unit, lest it become someone else's energy hog. When you're ready to retire your old unit, be sure it is recycled. If you buy a new model, many stores will recycle the old one for you. Otherwise, visit www.energystar.gov/recycle to find a recycling facility near you.

When you go shopping for a new unit, look for the blue ENERGY STAR label. Every major appliance manufacturer sells ENERGY STAR qualified models, which offer advanced technologies that keep your food fresher, longer. Many sleek new models will also look as good in your home as they do on your energy bill.

ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program that helps individuals and businesses save energy and protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Learn more at www.energystar.gov.